



Indiana State Excise Police News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Excise Police Search Richmond Restaurant, Owner Facing Charges

RICHMOND, Ind. (June 11) – Indiana State Excise Police searched a Richmond restaurant this afternoon looking for evidence of sale of alcohol without a permit.

Excise officers served a search warrant at La Chiquita Mexican Market, 1625 E. Main, Richmond. This afternoon's search was the result of an investigation by excise police that included a plainclothes officer purchasing alcoholic beverages on previous occasions.

Officers seized bottles of wine and liqueur, along with 50 bootleg DVDs of various titles.

As a result, owner Gonzalo Montiel, 42, Richmond, will face preliminary felony charges of fraud and maintaining a common nuisance and misdemeanor charges of sale of alcohol without a permit and unauthorized dealings. Montiel is scheduled to appear in Wayne Superior Court on June 25.

"State Excise officers are tasked with regulating the distribution of alcohol with a priority to ensure that it is sold lawfully and is not made available to underage persons," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "State Excise officers will remain diligent in the effort to investigate the illegal sale of alcohol, commonly referred to as bootlegging, to enhance public safety, and in particular, to ensure the safety of young Hoosiers."

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on enforcing Indiana's alcohol and tobacco statutes.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.